

Points To Conspiracy Evidence-- And Mysterious Happenings

QJC Teacher Convinced 3 Gunmen In

By JONATHAN BURAK

When Lee Harvey Oswald was killed, Edgar Tatrow, a teenager at the time, jumped up and down for joy.

He was thoroughly convinced that what he was being told on the television was the truth.

"My country, right or wrong, I had no reason to doubt anything about this country and its institutions whatever," he recalls.

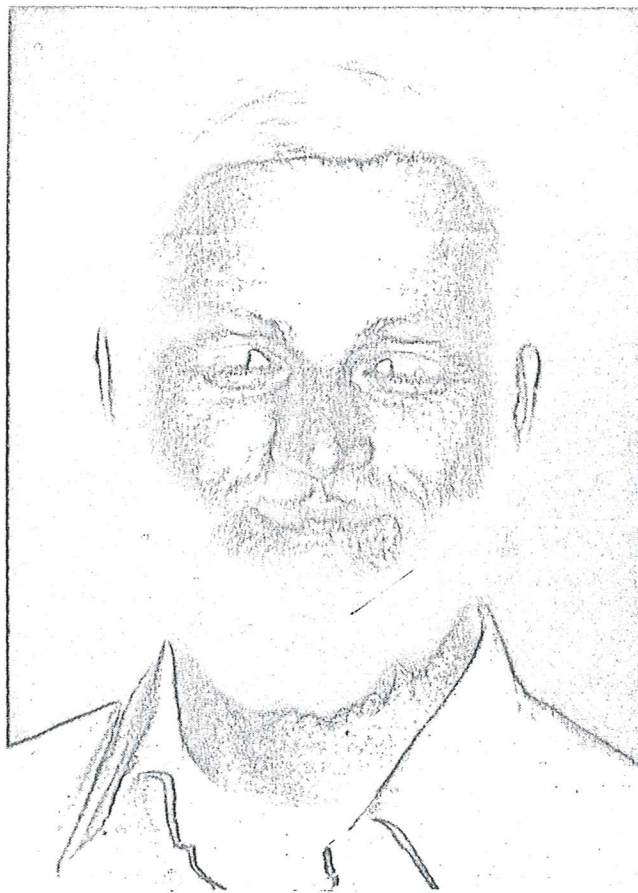
But later, when his father came home, and in a happy voice he told him Oswald had been shot, his father replied, "Did you ever think that the man who shot him, shot him to shut him up, that there is more to this than just one man killing one man, and then another man killing another man?"

That started him on his way.

Edgar Tatrow teaches "The Kennedy Assassination," a non-credit course offered by Quincy Junior College's Division of Continuing Education. He has been conducting his own intensive research into the assassination since 1966. He has become a most knowledgeable source on the subject. His research has been published internationally, and his findings have been footnoted in several of the major texts on the topic. He has been asked to lecture at Harvard, B. U., Boston State College, and Suffolk University. He presently teaches English at Quincy High School. He has a masters degree in education, and is currently doing advanced graduate work at Boston State College.

Tatrow has shaped his course not only as a study of the facts surrounding the assassination, but as a study about the intelligence agencies and what their function is, police techniques, medicine, forensic pathology, ballistics, and other diversified fields. Above all, it is a study of logic and critical thinking.

"People usually jump the gun, they make hasty generalizations; they fall into all kinds of fallacious



EDGAR TATROW (Jonathan Burak Photo)

arguments," he says. "And by looking at this material, it makes people not only think twice, it makes them think four or five times; to not accept something because someone famous said so; to not accept something because a source of 'unquestionable honesty' said so; or because it looks like that is the way it happened. Most things in life are not black and white - they're gray, and you've got to look at all the angles."

Tatrow, when asked, has tried to briefly synopsise some of the massive amount of material involved in looking at the case for

its conspiratorial aspects:

"The House Committee on Assassinations has concluded that there was a conspiracy, and the major reason was the acoustics tests. There was a tape, inadvertently made of the shots in Dealey Plaza, when a motorcycle patrolman left the microphone on his radio locked on, and from the tape, experts in the field of acoustics have proven that there were four shots fired, as opposed to the three shots the Warren Commission said there were. And they proved that the third shot came from the front, the opposite direction of Oswald, who was allegedly situated to the rear of

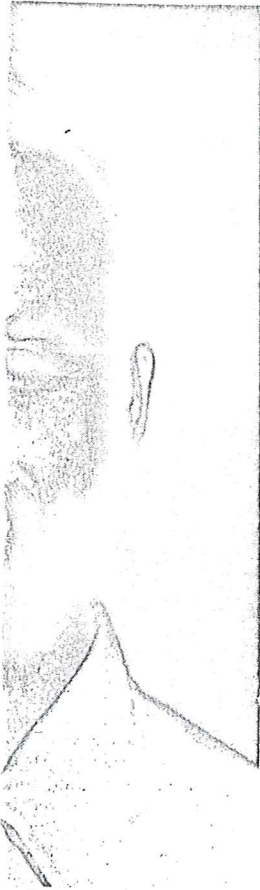
the President's car. This proves that there was a second gunman.

"In addition, my main contention is that there were three gunmen to the rear of President Kennedy, as well as a gunman from the front. The acoustics tests proved that the difference in time between the first two shots, both from the rear, is only 1.6 seconds. The FBI had concluded in 1964 that Oswald's rifle would take at least 2.3 seconds to fire consecutive shots. The House congressional committee attempt to fire two shots in allotted 1.6 seconds time failed miserably. Only by firing the rifle without aiming it, were they able to duplicate the required time. Since Oswald's alleged perch was situated at an awkward angle with a tree partially blocking view and the car moving away at the time, I am convinced that is strong evidence of two gunmen firing two separate shots from the rear.

"The areas of concern are endless, but in a nutshell, these are some of the major points:

- "Jack Ruby's extensive involvement in organized crime.
- "Lee Harvey Oswald's known associations to the intelligence agencies of this country.
- "The dozens of mysterious deaths of key witnesses throughout the years.
- "The lack of thorough investigations into the backgrounds of other arrested suspects of that day.
- "The disappearance of crucial documents and photos from the National Archives including the President's brain tissue slides and x-rays.
- "The sloppiness of the autopsy which was never properly completed.
- "The refusal of the assassinations committee to conduct ballistics tests to substantiate that the single bullet theory is possible.
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scrutinize all of the physical evidence used to incriminate Oswald, several pieces of which are highly questionable.

- "And the failure to delve into the very real possibility that Oswald was not Oswald, but an imposter, as suggested by the discrepancies of Oswald's body scars, fingerprint cards, and even governmental documents."

Given his pro-conspiracy personal viewpoint, Tatro notes he has to concentrate on teaching the course in an objective manner.

"Nobody is totally objective. Maybe Mr. Spock from Star Trek; he's probably the only one. But in the classroom I try as much as is humanly possible to present the facts as they are. If something is an absolute scientific fact, then I state it as such. If something is my opinion, I will state it as my opinion and try to explain why I feel that way."

Tatro has mixed feelings about the House Committee on Assassinations' conclusions this past year.

"In certain areas I think they did a very thorough job. But the problem comes down to - Can the Government investigate the Government? Can we trust these men? The assassination committee continues to accept the single bullet theory, that one bullet went through both President Kennedy and Governor Connally, and I still have questions and reservations... The House Committee spent six million dollars proving there was a conspiracy, instead of taking the six million dollars, accepting the fact that there was a conspiracy, and going after the people who killed him."

Even now, Tatro believes that it is remotely possible that there

could be arrests and convictions for the murder of President Kennedy, if the Justice Department were to pursue the case with all its resources.

Tatro would like to see his course become accredited by Quincy Junior College, because it would bring in a more diversified group of students. The Kennedy Assassination is already being taught as an accredited course in several colleges throughout the country.

"Quincy is a very conservative community, and it's a very controversial subject," he says. "Quincy Junior College is a city school. There may be some concern that such a subject can not be dealt with totally objectively. They don't want someone to use the public forum to give their own private views, and I think that's a very valuable point. Private universities, like B. U., don't have to worry about public opinion, whereas a public school does. I think I could do it objectively."

"No one individual can change the world. You can only put a dent into it. I figure people like me keep certain people in government a little more honest, and a scintilla of honesty is better than nothing, because I think most of the problems we have today result from the day Kennedy was killed. I think we've gone down the tubes since that day, and most of our problems, either directly or indirectly, relate to that day."

Tatro will continue in his research, and in teaching the subject which holds much meaning to him. Says he:

"Freedom causes abuse of freedom, and that's why you have to keep questioning, because if you don't, you will lose it all."